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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 1600
12 September 1966

ARMY and DOS review(s) completed.

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
FURTHER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
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HIGHLIGHTS

South Vietnam has officially announced that 80.8 percent of the registered voters in the country actually cast their ballots. Of this number, it is estimated that some two percent may be invalidated.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:

The Ha Thanh Special Forces camp in Quang Ngai Province and the Trai Bi Special Forces camp in Tay Ninh Province were attacked yesterday (Para. 1). Elements of the 610th North Vietnamese Army Division have once again taken the offensive in Binh Dinh Province after avoiding contact for over two months (Paras. 2-3).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

The government announced that over 80 percent of the registered voters cast their ballots; approximately two percent of the ballots may be invalid (Paras. 1-3).

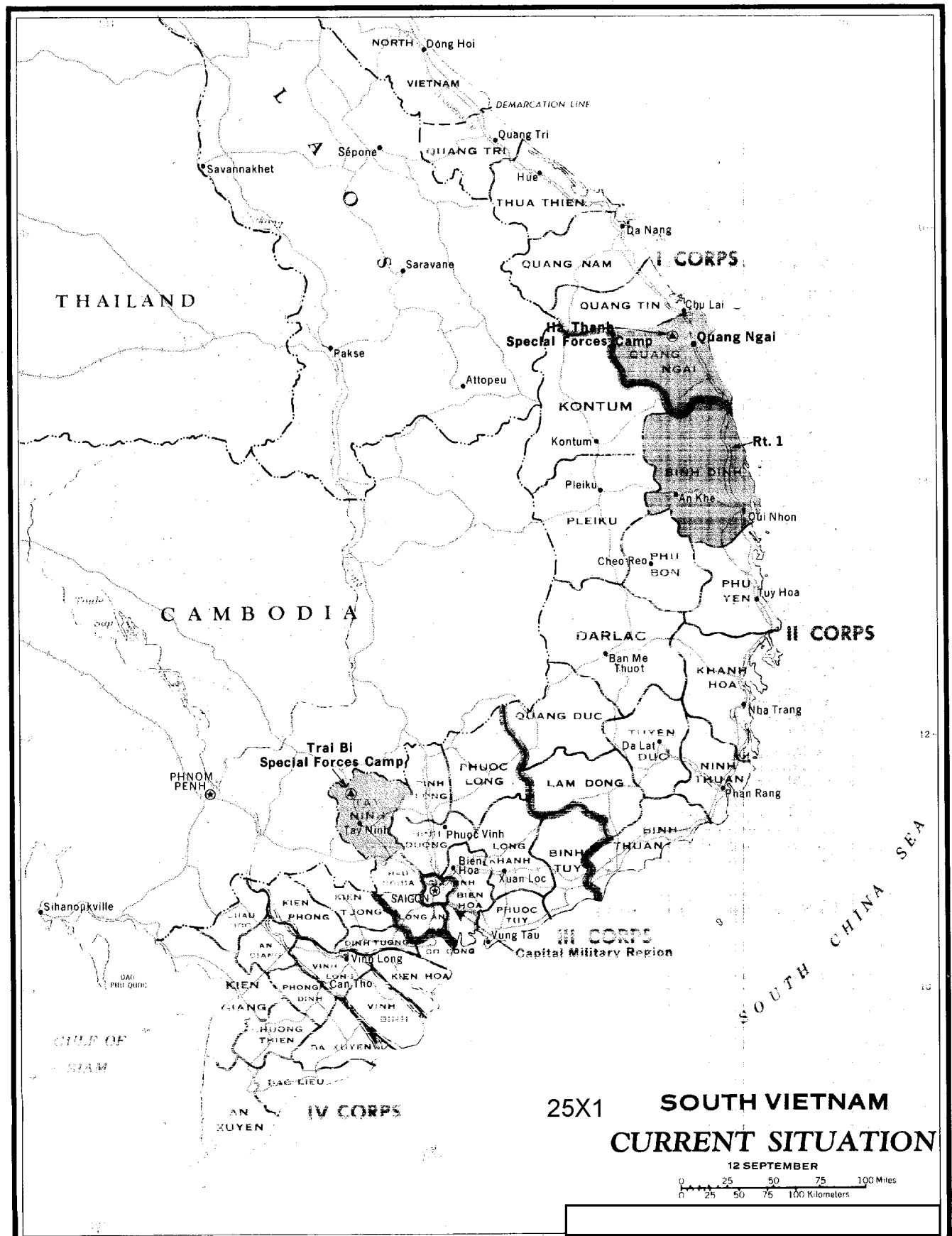
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IV. Other Communist Military Developments:

There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments:

There is nothing of significance to report.



I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. The Ha Thanh Special Forces Camp, located about 12 miles west of Quang Ngai city in coastal Quang Ngai Province, was attacked by a Communist force of unknown size yesterday. During the three-hour attack on the camp, two Special Forces outposts in the area were overrun. Friendly casualties were reported as two Civilian Irregular Defense Corps (CIDG) soldiers killed and 12 CIDG wounded. Enemy casualties are unknown. According to press reports, the Trai Bi Special Forces camp in Tay Ninh Province near the Cambodian border was also attacked yesterday. No friendly casualties were reported.

The 610th NVA Division Appears Active Again

2. The 610th North Vietnamese Army Division has once again began offensive activities in the coastal flatlands of Binh Dinh Province after avoiding contact for over two months. Four separate attacks occurred on 8 September in the eastern part of the province against South Vietnamese units, outposts, and Regional and Popular Force installations. MACV reports that although the enemy units were unidentified, they were probably elements of the 610th Division.

3. The activity suggests that elements of the 610th Division may be deployed along Route 1 in a position to launch coordinated attacks against district towns and South Vietnamese and South Korean forces located in eastern Binh Dinh Province.

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. The GVN officially announced that 80.8 percent of the registered voters cast their ballots. The US Embassy has estimated that two percent of those ballots were not valid. However, in the Buddhist strongholds of Hue and Da Nang approximately ten percent of the ballots were reportedly invalidated.

2. By electoral region, the percentage of those registered who voted is as follows:

I Corps	87.2
II Corps	86.9
III Corps	83.0
Saigon	66.5
Gia Dinh	73.0
IV Corps	83.1

By profession, the winning candidates are grouped as follows:

Educators	23
Businessmen	22
Civil servants	18
Military	18
Lawyers	8
Farmers	7
Doctors	5
Notables	5

The remaining winners were listed as retired or unknown profession.

3. A preliminary assessment by MACV of Viet Cong - initiated incidents during the 21-hour period ending at 3:00 p.m. (Saigon time) on 11 September illustrates the intensity of the antielection campaign. The 75 incidents included the harassment of four provincial capitals, eight district towns, eight villages, and 50 outposts, resulting in the death of nine military and civilian personnel and the wounding of 90 others.

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